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USSR: The Soviets now have notified the International Telecommunication Union of their intention to launch the synchronous communications satellite that was reported earlier this week.

The satellite will be launched into an orbit that will keep it in a constant position over the Indian Ocean, probably in December 1970. Its orbit will avoid interference with the Intelsat satellite scheduled to be positioned in the same area later this year.

A satellite over the Indian Ocean also should give the USSR excellent coverage of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Up to now all Soviet communications satellites have been placed in a highly elliptical orbit. This provides optimum coverage of the USSR, but only limited potential coverage elsewhere.

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NOTES

UK-Anguilla: British officials state that London will put Anguilla under direct rule by a British commissioner, possibly for several years. The Anguillans will not be asked to rejoin the association with St. Kitts, which they broke away from almost two years ago. London hopes to negotiate an agreement for direct British rule and for the withdrawal of British troops from the island as soon as possible. The Anguillans will probably acquiesce in the British intervention while demanding increased financial support for development projects.

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